

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-23, which are withdrawn from consideration, without prejudice.

Please cancel Claims 29 and 30, without prejudice to further prosecution.

Please amend the Claims as follows:

24. (Amended) A method of transplanting pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells in a host comprising ~~the step of~~ introducing into the host pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal and capable of differentiation to cells of endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages, wherein the stem cells proliferate and differentiate in the host ~~the stem cells of Claim 1~~.

25. (Amended) A method of providing a host with purified pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells comprising ~~the step of~~ introducing into the host ~~the~~ pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal and capable of differentiation to cells of endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages, wherein the stem cells proliferate and differentiate in the host ~~of Claim 1~~.

26. (Amended) A method of *in vivo* administration of a protein or gene of interest in a mammal comprising ~~the step of~~ transfecting ~~a~~ the pluripotent embryonic-like stem cell derived from non-embryonic or postnatal animal cells or tissue, capable of self-renewal and capable of differentiation to cells of endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal lineages ~~of Claim 1~~ with a vector comprising DNA or RNA which expresses a protein or gene of interest, and administering the transfected pluripotent embryonic-like stem cell to said mammal, wherein the protein or gene of interest is expressed in said mammal.

27. (Amended) A method of preventing or and/or treating cellular debilitations, derangements, and/or dysfunctions or and/or other disease states in mammals, comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells wherein the administered stem cells proliferate and differentiate in said mammal to prevent or treat the cellular debilitation, derangement, dysfunction or other disease state in

said mammal ~~, or cells or tissues derived therefrom.~~

28. (Amended) A method of tissue repair or transplantation in mammals, comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells wherein the administered stem cells proliferate and differentiate to form the cells or tissue which is in need of repair or transplantation in said mammal ~~, or cells or tissues derived therefrom .~~

31. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of cellular debilitation, derangement or and/or dysfunction in mammals, comprising:

A. a therapeutically effective amount of pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, ~~or cells or tissues derived therefrom~~; and

B. a pharmaceutically acceptable medium or carrier.

32. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 31 ~~28~~ further comprising one or more a proliferation factor or lineage-commitment factor.

Please add the following new Claims:

-- 33. A method of treating cellular or tissue loss or deficiency in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells, wherein the administered stem cells proliferate and differentiate to form the cells or tissue which is lost or deficient in said mammal.

34. The method of Claim 33 wherein the pluripotent embryonic-like stem cells are administered in combination with one or more proliferation factor or lineage commitment factor. --